DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 159 635 CS 004 367

AUTHOR Kessler, Margaret; Kessler, John
TITLE A Treasure Chest of Primary Learning Center Ideas.
PUB DATE [78]
NOTE 28p.
AVAILABLE FROM Teacher's Pet, 1411 Sturdevant, Davenport, Iowa 52804 ($2.40)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Bulletin Boards; *Centers of Interest; Elementary Education; *Guides; *Instructional Materials; *Learning Laboratories; Student Motivation

ABSTRACT

Defining a learning center as a classroom area containing several learning stations where students may work independently with materials which teach, reinforce, or enrich their skills, this guide presents a number of ideas for use in the visual motivation display area of such a center. Suggestions for displays for the various teaching stations are outlined, and instructions and patterns for creating the displays are provided. The patterns include a "sentence building peacock," "short vowel sliders," and an "ice cream cone wheel" for math problems. The guide concludes with a bibliography of other works concerning learning center ideas. (RL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED159635

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL IN ITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

A TREASURE CHEST OF

PRIMARY LEARNING CENTER IDEAS

BY

Margaret Kessler
Second Grade Teacher
Roosevelt School
Davenport, Iowa

John Kessler
First Grade Teacher
Wilson School
Davenport, Iowa

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Margaret Kessler
John Kessler
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

CS004367

A LEARNING CENTER is a well-defined area in a classroom where one or more pupils can work independently using a variety of learning materials. This collection of materials teaches, reinforces, or enriches a group of skills or concepts. Within each learning center are several individual learning stations that deal with one skill or concept.

TWO BASIC COMPONENTS OF LEARNING CENTERS

1. Area For Visual Motivator Display

   --Usually includes bulletin board, which can be on the wall or ceiling.

   --Has central character and caption.

   --Can include directions for use of center or list of stations available at center.

   --Can be used for display of children's work.

2. Student Work Area

   --Should be correct height for children using centers.

   --Can be table, desk, counter top, or electrical spool top.

   --Serves as area to house materials.

Don't Get All

Tied Up!

HOW TO MAKE CHARACTERS
FOR YOUR
PRIMARY VISUAL MOTIVATOR DISPLAYS

1. Decide on a Character.

--Sources for Primary Ideas

a. Bulletin Board Books

--Adapt A Board Books (Trend Enterprises), $3.95.

--Cartoon Bulletin Boards by Jerome Brown (Fearon Publishing), $2.95.

--Classroom Cartoons for All Occasions by Jerome Brown (Fearon Publishing), $2.95.

b. Children's Coloring Books

c. Newspaper Advertisement Characters

d. Greeting Cards

2. Choose a Caption.

--Remember the interest and reading level of your students.

--Captions for primary children should be as short and simple as possible.

--Select captions that are flexible so that you can accommodate a variety of types of stations within a center.

3. Make a transparency of the character you are going to make.

4. Enlarge the character by using an overhead projector. Trace it on white poster board or oaktag using a black bullet pointed Carter's Mark-A-Lot Marker. (Available at office supply stores.)

5. Paint the different areas of the character using school tempera paint.

6. After allowing the paint to dry, outline the character using a fine brush and black tempera. This makes the character stand out on a bulletin board.

7. Cut out the character.

8. Be sure to laminate your homemade treasures. Tempera paint stains easily if not laminated.

PRIMARY LEARNING CENTER IDEAS FOR VISUAL MOTIVATOR DISPLAYS

Character or Visual Motivator	Caption
ART CENTER	
1. A Bee	"Busy Bee Center"
2. A Housepainter	"Paintin' Place"
3. A Nut	"We're Art Nuts"
4. A Completed Art Project	"Can You Make This?"
5. Child Modeling Clay	"Clay Play" (also can include copy of poem by Rhoda W. Bacmeister entitled "Clay Play.")
6. Sign (made of letters from contact paper)	"Art Cart"
MATH CENTER	
1. Monkey Hanging From Tree	"Hung Up on Math? Try These!"
2. A Turtle	"Don't Be Slow.... Learn Your Addition Facts"
3. Clown Balancing On A Tightrope	"Balancing Fun" (missing addends)
4. An Eskimo in Snow	"Math Is Cool"
5. A Lion	"No Lion....Math is Fun"
6. An Elephant	"Elephants Never Forget These Math Facts" (addition or subtraction)
7. A Baseball Player at Bat	"Let's Bat a Good Average in Math"
8. A Giraffe	"Think Tall" (measurement)

Character or Visual Motivator	Caption
LISTENING CENTER	
1. Sign Made of Letters from Contact Paper	"Tape Escape"
2. Movie Marquee Sign	"Now Playing at the Listening Center"
3. Circus Ring Master	"Presenting Good Listening"
4. A Spotlight	"The Spotlight is on Good Listening"
SCIENCE CENTER	
1. An Animal and Tracks	"Let's Track Down Science"
2. Flowers	"What's Blooming?" (to teach names of common flowers)
3. Bugs	"This Place is Bugged"
4. A Magnifying Glass and Leaves	"Let's Discover Autumn"
5. A Large Dinosaur	"Dinosaur Land"
6. A Detective	"Let's Investigate Science"
LANGUAGE ARTS GAMES	
1. A Sail Boat	"Sail Into Reading"
2. A Kangaroo	"Hop to It"
3. A Whale	"Have a Whale of a Time in Reading"

Character or Visual Motivator	Caption
LANGUAGE ARTS GAMES (Cont.)	
4. Child Flying Kite	"Flying High in Reading"
5. A Hippopotamus	"Thinking Big in Reading"
6. Cowboy with Rope	"Reading Roundup"
7. A Tiger	"We're Tigers at Reading"
8. Astronaut and Rocket	"Blasting into Spelling"
GOOD BOOK CORNER	
1. Mod Granny Reading a Book	"It's Never Too Late to Read"
2. A Toucan	"These Good Books Fill the Bill"
3. A Frog	"Jump Into These Good Books"
4. An Old-Fashioned Bathtub Painted and Covered Inside with Acrylic Fur	"Rub-A-Dub-Dub--Come Read in a Tub"
5. Children Dressed with Mittens for Winter Weather	"When It's Mitten Weather, Let's Read Together"
6. Children Reading on Rug by Fireplace	"Cozy Corner"
7. Studious Worm Reading a Book	"Be a Book Worm!"
8. Santa Seated in a Chair, Reading	"Sit Down by Santa and Read"
9. Football Player Catching a Football	"Catch These Fall Favorites"

Character or Visual Motivator	Caption
GOOD BOOK CORNER (Cont.)	
10. Flowers	"We Pick These Books"
11. Wise Looking Owl	"Wise Books"
SOCIAL STUDIES TABLE	
1. Mexican Boy Sleeping by Cactus	"Let's Study About Mexico-- No Siestas Allowed"
2. Explorer and Map of City	"Let's Explore Our City"
3. Iowa Farmer	"All About Iowa"
4. Photographs Taken of Students	"There's Only One Me" (self-concept)
WRITING CENTER	
1. A Cat	"Be a Purr-fect Writer"
2. An Indian Brave	"Heap Good Writing"
3. Individual Small Telephones With Students' Names and Telephone Numbers	"Can You Write Your Telephone Number?"
4. Snoopy Dog and Bones	"Write Right"
5. A Cook	"Let's Cook Up Some Good Stories"
6. Little House and Individual Lined Copies of Students' Addresses	"Do You Know Your Address?"

It's A Breeze

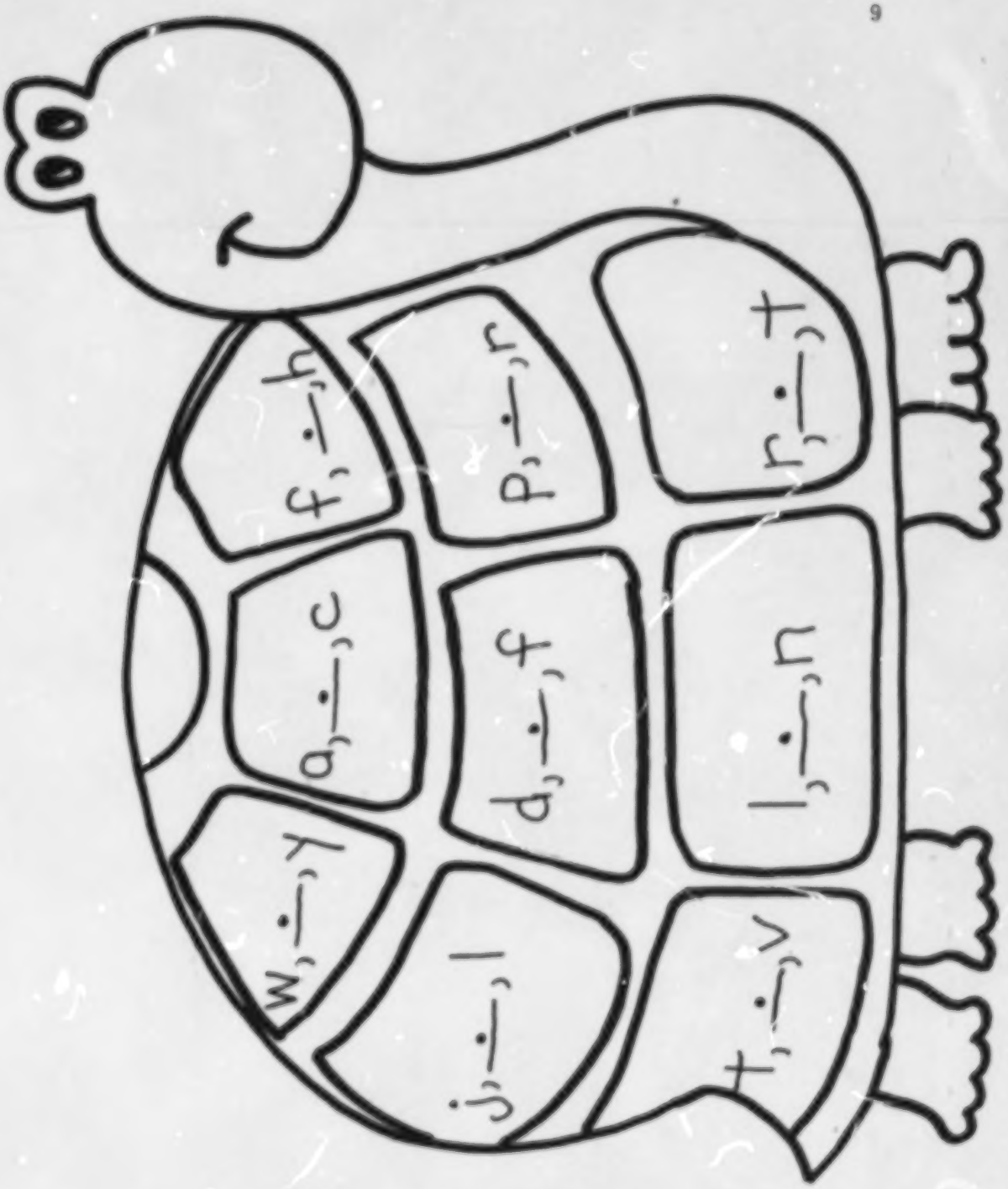
With These

Primary

Learning

Station

Patterns

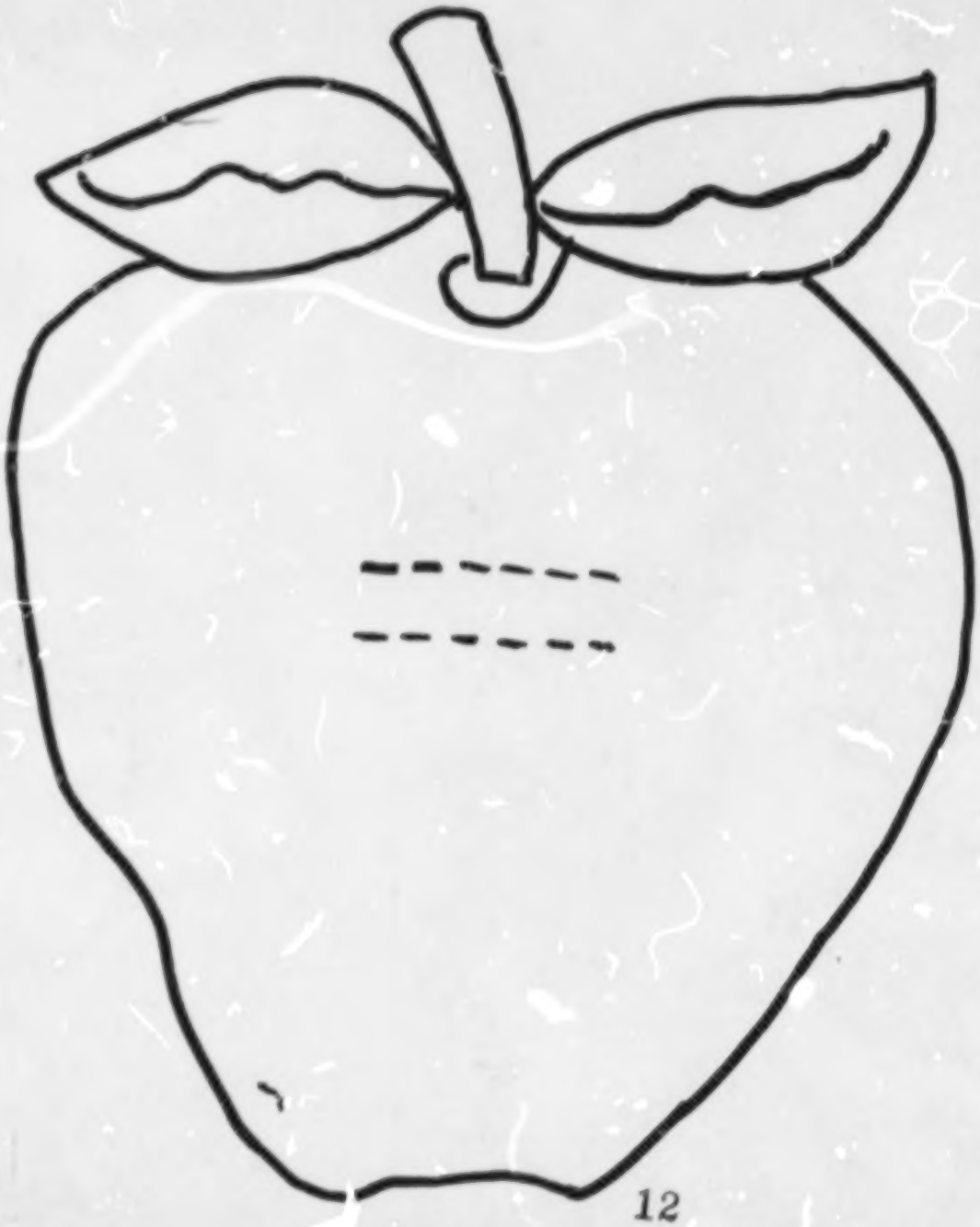


POKE AND PEEK TURTLE

Trace turtle pattern on poster board using carbon. Cut out and outline with markers. Add letters and missing letter blanks. Punch holes where letters are missing. Write answers on back and laminate.

SHORT VOWEL SLIDERS

The following five pages contain patterns for short vowel sliders. Using carbon paper, trace these patterns on poster board. Cut out the shapes and use colored markers to accent and add detail. Fasten green poster board leaves to the apple shape with rubber cement. X-acto Cutter Knives are great for cutting dotted lines where sliders are to be inserted. Be sure to laminate.



bad
fat
bag
can
cat
hand
clap
dad
had
has
map
mat

Short a

net
bed
ten
set
met
fed
wet
leg
peg
red
pet

Short e

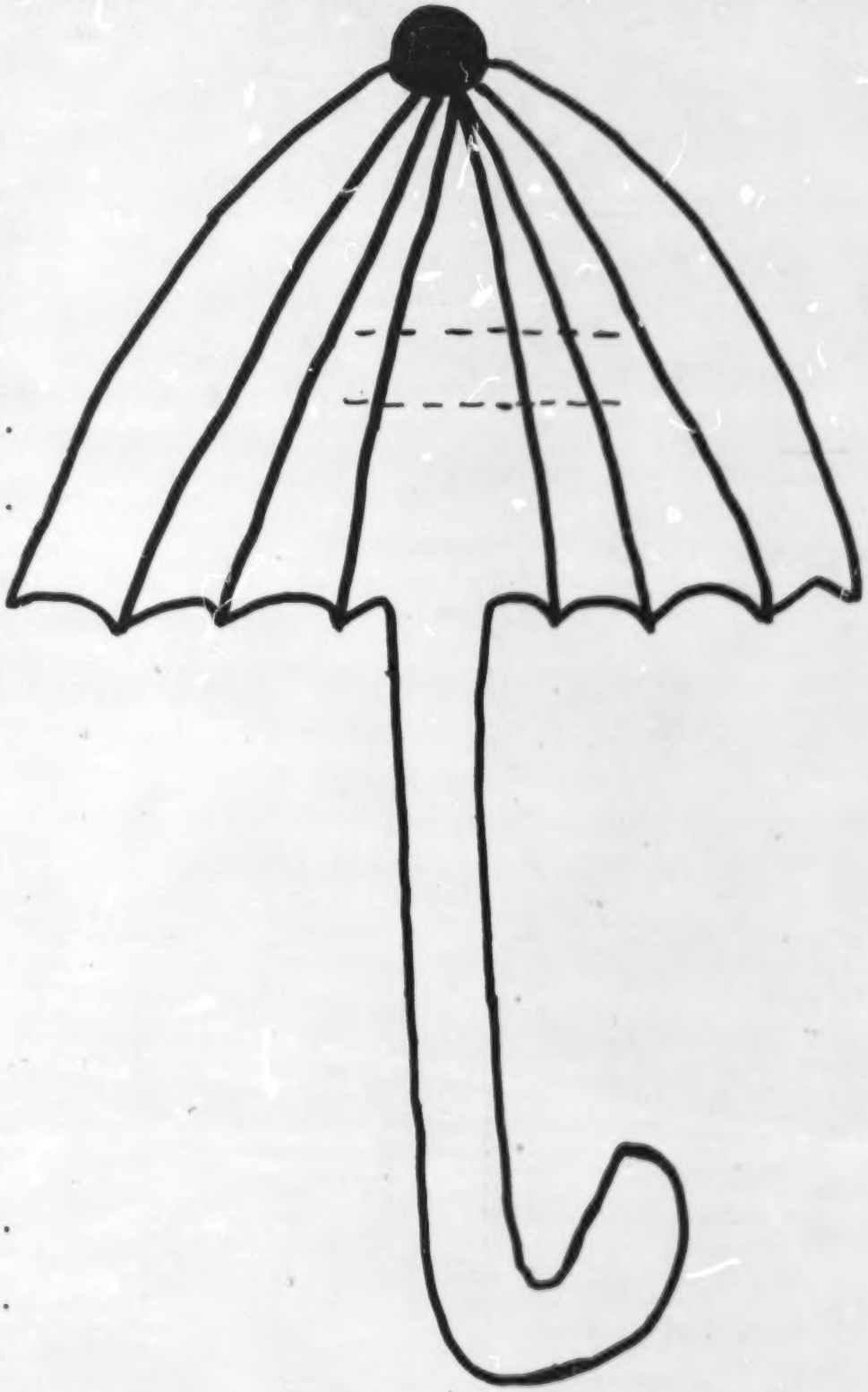
in
bit
did
big
fish
is
his
if
it
pig
sit
sick
Sing

Short i

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

Short o
rock
stop
pot
on
not
lot
lock
hot
hop
got
frog
fox
dog



but
up
fun
hunt
bus
just
much
us
run
must
under
until
gun

Short u

LICK AND MAN SLIDERS

These simple stations help students to recognize ick and an family words. Trace these patterns on poster board and decorate with brightly colored markers. Make slider strips and cut on dotted lines to insert sliders. Do printing and laminate. Great for students working in pairs or small groups.

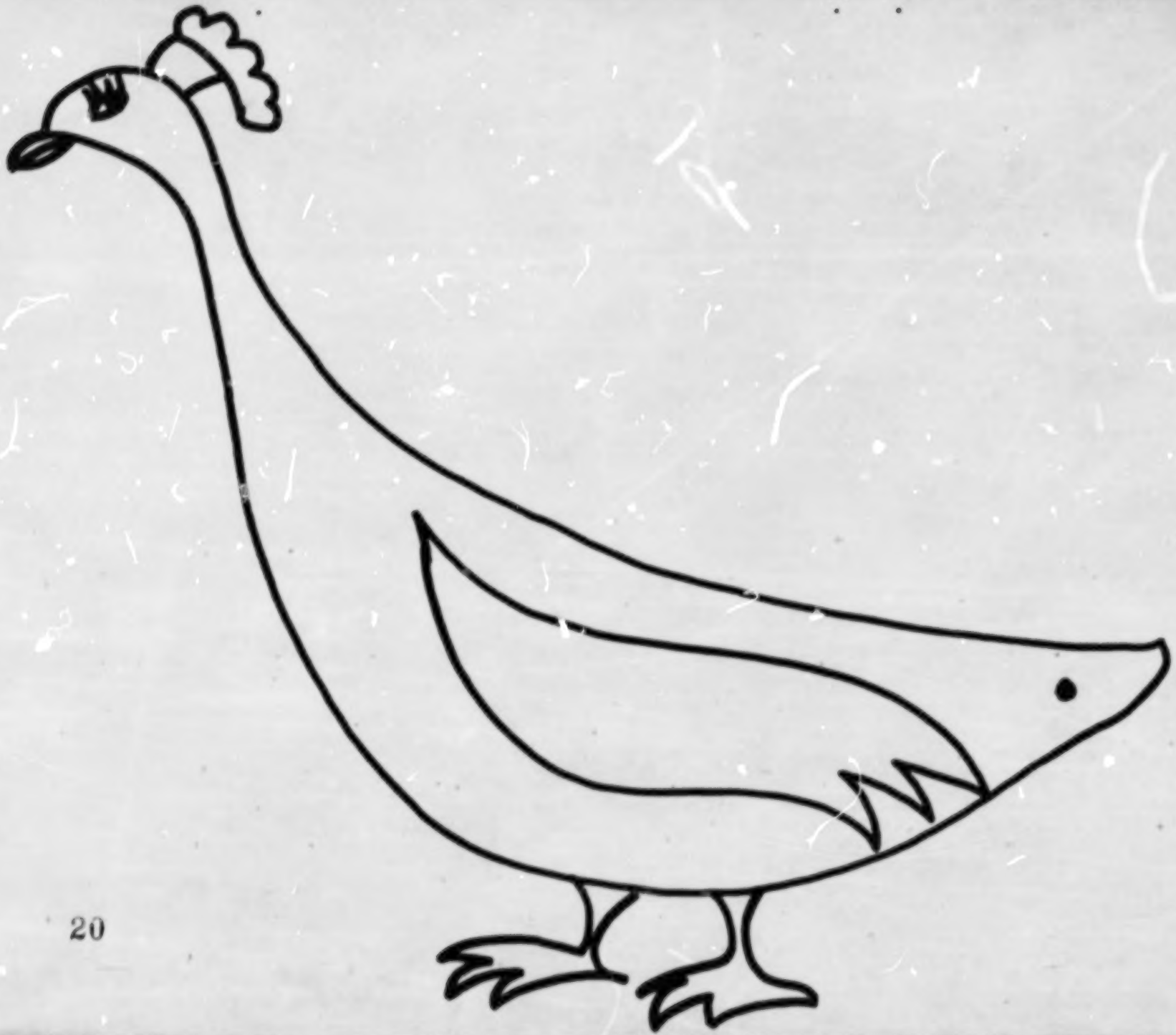
D k l N P S t W

ick

b
c
D
f
m
N
an

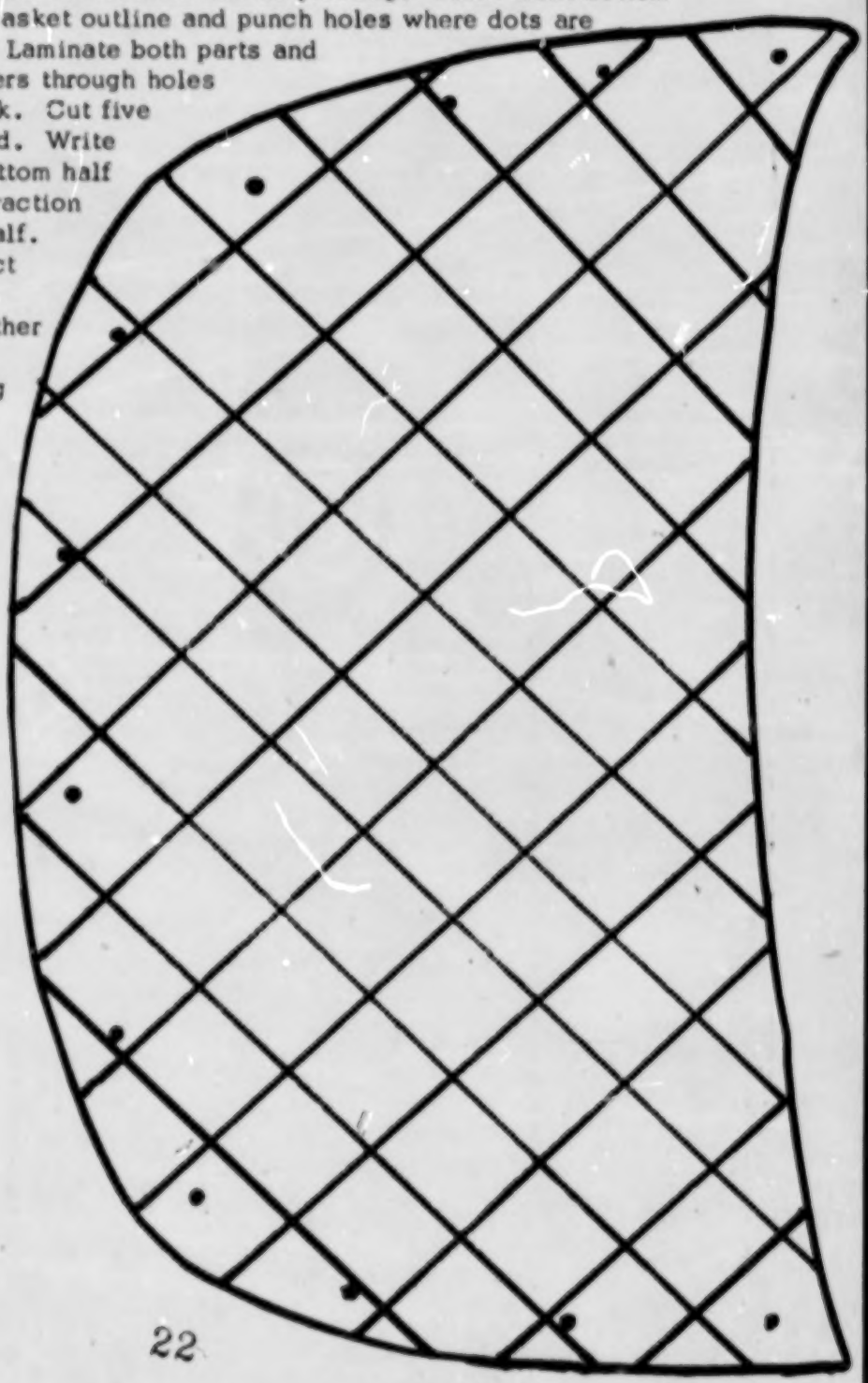
SENTENCE BUILDING PEACOCK

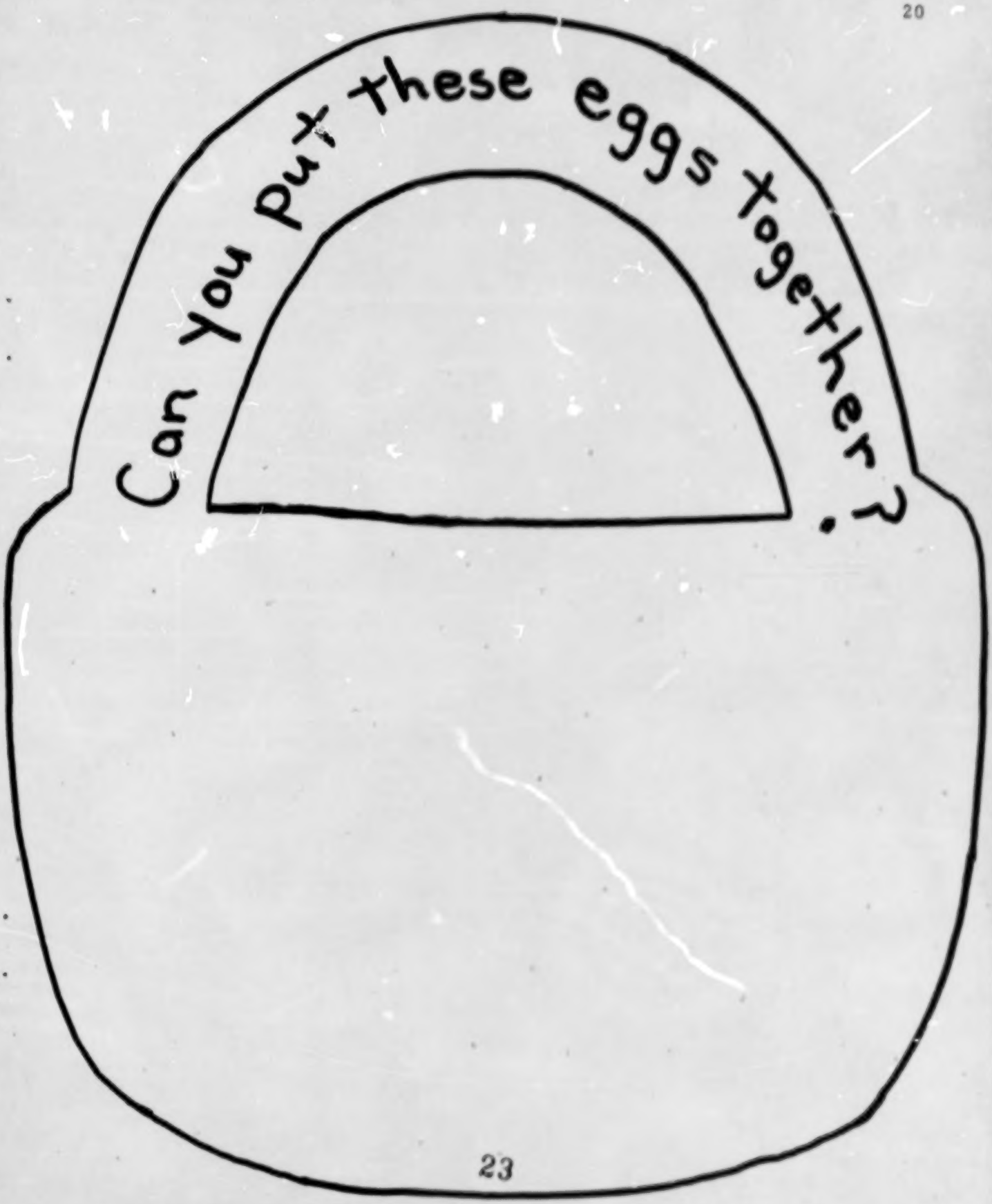
Trace body (page 18) and five tail feathers (page 17) on poster board. Cut out parts and use markers to add details. Attach five tail feathers to back of body with brass fasteners. Write one word from a five word sentence on each feather tip. Number back of each tail feather so station is self checking and laminate. After student arranges words into correct sentence order, he/she copies the sentence.

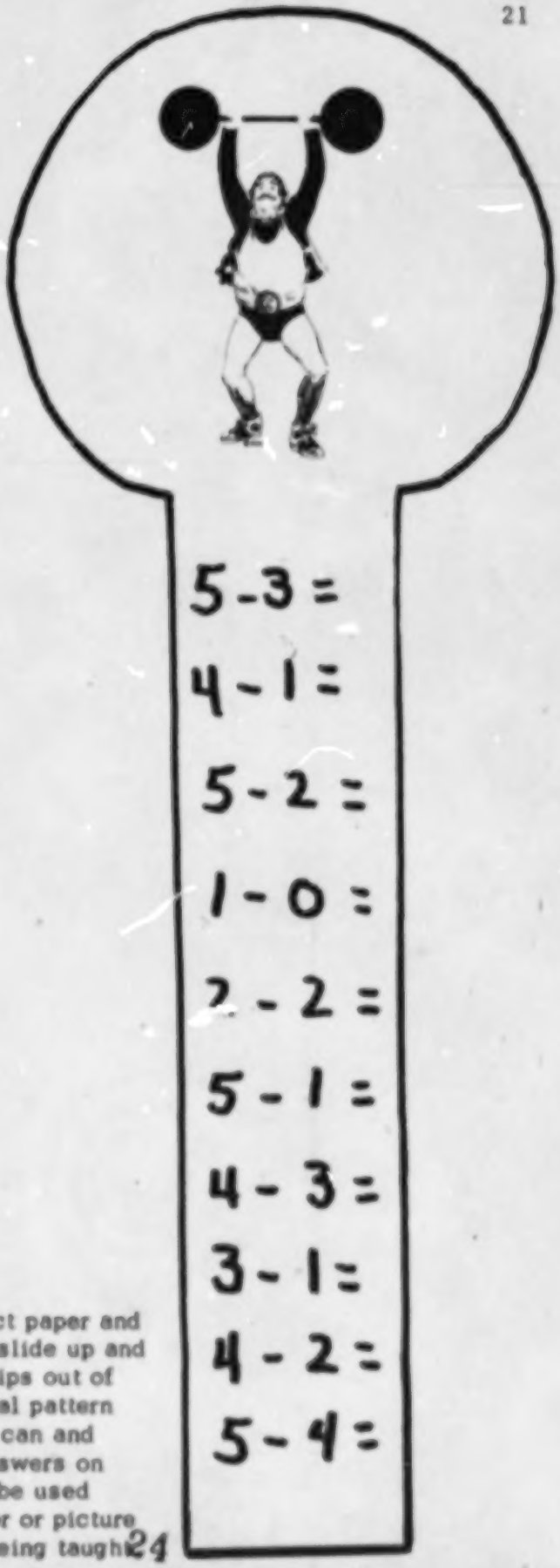


EGGS AND BASKET

Trace basket outline (page 20) and front bottom piece (page 19) on poster board. With markers, draw in details and do printing. Place front bottom piece on top of whole basket outline and punch holes where dots are on front bottom piece. Laminate both parts and then poke brass fasteners through holes connecting front to back. Cut five eggs out of poster board. Write a contraction on the bottom half and the words the contraction stands for on the top half. Cover with clear contact paper and cut apart so they can be fitted together like a puzzle. This station is self checking because only correct egg parts will fit together.




Can you put these eggs together?



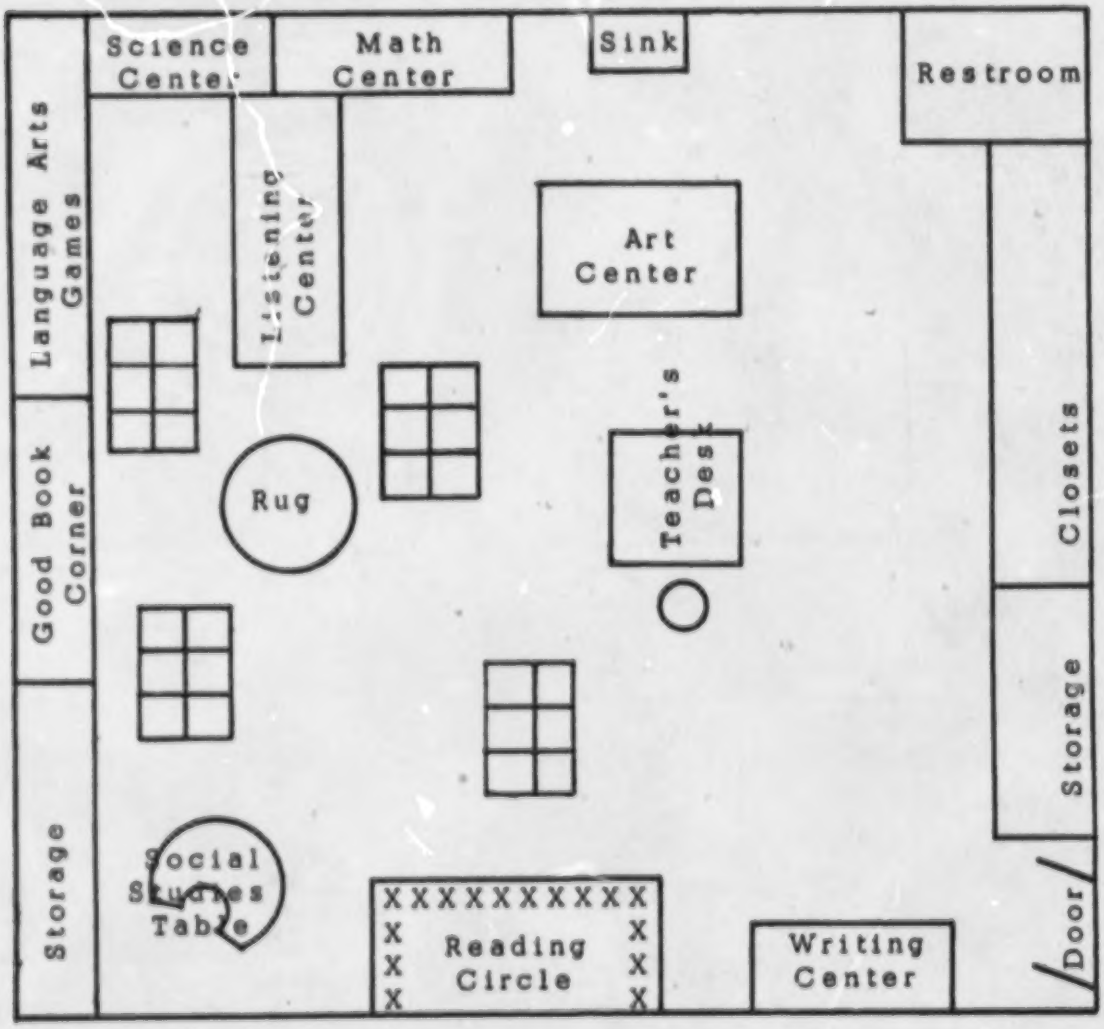
PULL UPS

Cover Pringle can with colorful contact paper and slit plastic lid so pull-up strips will slide up and down easily. Cut several pull-up strips out of poster board and decorate. (See actual pattern to the right.) Insert strips in Pringle can and put problem or picture on front and answers on back. This self checking format can be used for a variety of skills and can be color or picture coded according to the type of skill being taught.

ICE CREAM CONE WHEEL

Trace pattern of ice cream cone and circle on white poster board. Cut out dotted box. Using markers color ice cream pink and cone brown. Make circle pink like ice cream. Insert brass fastener through middle of circle and connect to middle of ice cream. As you turn wheel, write in problems. To make it self checking, write answers inside box on back side. Cover both parts with clear contact paper.

A Map Of A First Grade Learning Center Classroom



Room 101
Wilson School
Davenport, Iowa
John Kessler, Teacher

A Treasure Chest Of Good Books

Trip Into Learning Centers by Nancy Carr (Ore Press)

Mitten Match by Barbara and Beverly Price (Instructional Fair, Inc.)

Nooks, Crannies and Corners and other Kids' Stuff Books (Incentive Publications)

Learning Centers - A Guide for Effective Use by Waynant and Wilson (Instructor Corporation)

Games for Individualizing Mathematics Learning by Kennedy and Michon (Charles E. Merrill Publishing)

70 Activities for Classroom Learning Centers by Dorothy M. Lloyd (Instructor Publications, Inc.)

Readiness Joy, Word Attack Joy, and Comprehension Joy by Joy Keith

Change for Children by Kaplan, Kaplan, Madsen, and Gould (Goodyear)

A Young Child Experiences by Kaplan, Kaplan, Madsen and Gould (Goodyear)

Learning Centers in the Open Classroom by David Kahl and Barbara Gast (International Center for Educational Development)

Creating the Open Classroom by Ishler and Ishler (D.O.K. Publishers, Inc.)

Language Arts Learning Station Book by Irene I. Donohoe (Trend)

Create Your Own Learning Center by Patricia Mummert (D.O.K. Publishers, Inc.)

Workjobs by Mary Lorton (Addison-Wesley Publishing)

Project Basic Reading Skill Stations by Cedar Rapids, Iowa Teachers (Cedar Rapids Schools Educational Service Center Printing Department)

Games That Teach by King (International Center for Educational Development)

Pair - it!

A Perfect Pair--
This Handout
and
John Kessler's Book:
A Peek... at Primary Learning Centers

This booklet includes information on:

* Characteristics of Good Primary Centers
* Planning Centers
* Management Techniques
* Simple Record Keeping
* Designing Primary Learning Center Classrooms
* Materials for Primary Centers and Sources
* Hints on Constructing Learning Stations
* Organizing and Storing Materials

- -

Send me ____ copy/copies of A Peek... at Primary LEARNING CENTERS at $2.00 each plus 40¢ per copy for mailing. (Make checks payable to John Kessler). Total Enclosed $_____.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Mail order to: Teacher's Pet; 1411 Sturdevant; Davenport, Iowa 52804.